



AN ACT

Passed by the Great and General Court or Assembly of His Majesty's Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New-England*; begun & held at *Boston*, upon Wednesday the Thirtieth Day of *May* 1733.

CHAP. I.

An Act for erecting the lower Plantation at *Houffattonock* into a Township, by the Name of *Sheffield*.

WHEREAS the Inhabitants of a Tract of Land on the River *Houffattonock*, adjoining Southerly on the divisional Line between this Government and Connecticut, have undergone many Difficulties and Inconveniences, and by reason of their Distance from any Towns in the County of Hampshire, may labour under more Mischiefs for want of a Power for the regular Management of their Affairs, and they being now arrived to a competent Number of Inhabitants, and having addressed this Court for Relief;

Preamble

Be it Enacted by His Excellency the Governour, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Lands in the lower Plantation (so called) at *Houffattonock*, of the Contents of seven Miles square, be and hereby are erected into a separate and distinct Township by the Name of *Sheffield*, by the Metes and Bounds following, viz. adjoining Southerly on the divisional Line between this Government and Connecticut, and thence extending the Lines Northerly on each side *Houffattonock* River eight Miles, so as to include the Quantity of seven Miles square, agreeable to a Grant of this Court at their Session in *May* 1722, and that a Plat of the Township be accordingly taken by a Surveyour and Chainmen on Oath and returned to this Court within Twelve Months by the Grantees for Confirmation of said Tract, to them their Heirs and Assigns: And that the Inhabitants of the said Lands be and are hereby accordingly endowed and vested with all Powers, Privileges, Immunities and Advantages which other Towns in this Province by Law, have and enjoy: And the Inhabitants of the said Town of *Sheffield* are hereby enjoined and required within the space of Three Years from the Publication of this Act, to build a suitable Meeting-House for the Publick Worship of GOD, and to procure and settle a learned orthodox Minister of good Conversation, and make Provision for his comfortable & honourable Support.

The lower Plantation at *Houffattonock* made a Town by the Name of *Sheffield*.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Town of *Sheffield*, be and hereby is declared to be within the County of *Hampshire*.

The Town of *Sheffield* to ly in the County of *Hampshire*

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AN ACT

Passed by the Great and General Court or Assembly of His Majesty Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New-England*, begun & held at *Boston*, upon Wednesday the Thirtieth Day of *May* 1733 And continued by Adjournment unto Wednesday the Fifteenth Day of *August* following.

CHAP. II.

An Act in further addition to an Act Entitled, *An Act for making effectual Provision for the Calling of Precinct or Parish Meetings*.

Preamble.

WHEREAS by an Act made in the Fourth and Fifth Years of the Reign of His present Majesty, Entitled, *An Act for making effectual Provision for the calling of Precinct or Parish Meetings*, It is Enacted, " That when it shall so happen, by the " Refusal of any Committee impowered to call Meetings in any Parish " or District, or their being disabled by the Death or Removal of the " major Part of such Committee, that then it shall be lawful for any " Justice of the Peace in the County where such Precinct, District " or Parish lies, and such Justice is impowered to issue out a Warrant " for the assembling such District or Parish, &c. " But no Provision is made by the said Act for the calling of Precinct or Parish Meetings after the first Meeting, where there shall be a Failure of choosing and appointing a Committee to call Meetings for the future as it hath sometimes happened; by means whereof many Inconveniencies have arisen;

A Justice of the Peace to call Parish Meetings after the first Meeting in Case.

Be it therefore Enacted by His Excellency the Governour, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That where no such Committee has been chosen in any Parish or Precinct, then and in such Case, upon Application of Five or more of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of such Precinct or Parish, to any one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the County where such Precinct or Parish lies, by Writing under their Hands for calling of a Meeting, to chuse Precinct Officers, and to transact such Matters and Things necessary for the ordering the Affairs of such Precinct or Parish, such Justice is hereby impowered and directed to issue out a Warrant for the assembling such Precinct, District or Parish as aforesaid, directed to the Clerk (if any be) or one of the Freeholders asking the same, requiring him to notify the Freeholders and other Inhabitants (qualified by Law to vote in Town Affairs) of the Meeting in like manner, and according to the Rules and Directions prescribed in an Act Entitled, *An Act in further Addition to the Act for the more effectual providing for the Support of Ministers*, Made in the Tenth Year of the Reign of King GEORGE the First.

Preamble.

And whereas many Inconveniencies have arisen from a Justice of the Peace only being impowered to swear a Precinct or Parish Clerk;

The Moderator of the Meeting to swear the Parish Clerk in Case.

Be it therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in Case there be no Justice of the Peace present at the Choice of a Parish or Precinct Clerk, that then it shall be in the Power of the Moderator of such Precinct or Parish Meeting, to swear such Parish or Precinct Clerk, to the faithful Discharge of his Office; who is hereby impowered to swear the rest of the Precinct Officers.

